

# Get stuck in! Engaging head, heart and hands with zine-making in the classroom

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Conference

21<sup>st</sup> January 2025



SF punk zines at Prelinger Library (Eyink, 2012)

# Before we start

- Feel free to start doodling!
- Get ideas going.
- You can use your doodles for the activity later.
- Can help students engage and learn note-taking skills.





# What is a zine?

- Short for “fan magazine”, pronounced “zeen”
- “a messy hodgepodge of personal thoughts or an expertly designed political treatise”
- Above all: outside of mainstream, independent and free

(Duke University Library, in Radway, 2012, p. 28)



Colorado College Zine Collection, 2005, CC BY 2.0, cropped

# Zine history

Science fiction fanzines  
(Duncombe, in Creasap, 2014, p. 156)

Riot grrrl: young women  
confronting sexism (Marcus, in  
Creasap, 2014, p. 157).

Racism and sexism in riot grrrl  
and zine scene. (Nguyen, 2012)

1970s

2003

1930s

1990s

2012

Punk rock (ignored by  
mainstream) (Duncombe, in  
Creasap, 2014, p. 157)

Started to be archived at Barnard  
zine library (Eichhorn 2013)

# How are they made?

- Big or small
- Colorful or black-and-white
- Handwritten or typed
- Loose, stapled, sewn, loose or folded

(Duke University Library, in Radway, 2012)



# What are they good for?

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Absolutely loads!

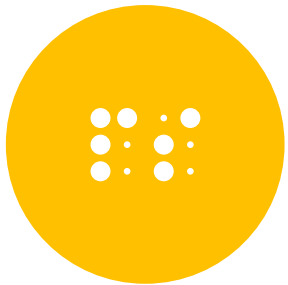
# Active learning



Higher order thinking skills



Emotional connection with content



Tactile or physical engagement with the environment



(From Tab Betts' definition on the Active Learning Network website)



# Zines in HE teaching 1

- Dr Amy King
- BA History module on fascism
- Multimodal expression
- Challenges authority
- Zine workshop
- Collaborative class zine

(Royal Historical Society, 2024)





# Zines in HE teaching 2

- Dr Katharine Terrell and Dr Carole Pugh
- BA Education Studies module on “Understanding Childhoods”
- Communication **skills**
- **Critical reflection** - thinking about images and policies
- **Voice of children and young people** (particularly those from marginalised groups), reflecting zine traditions.



# Appropriate, or appropriative?

- “zines are motivated by passion not profit” but have been “co-opted by organisations and brands as a way to make a profit or to elevate their status, using diy as an aesthetic” (Casio, 2019)
- Understand zines and use them thoughtfully.



# Access and inclusion



Build in accessibility



Variety of formats



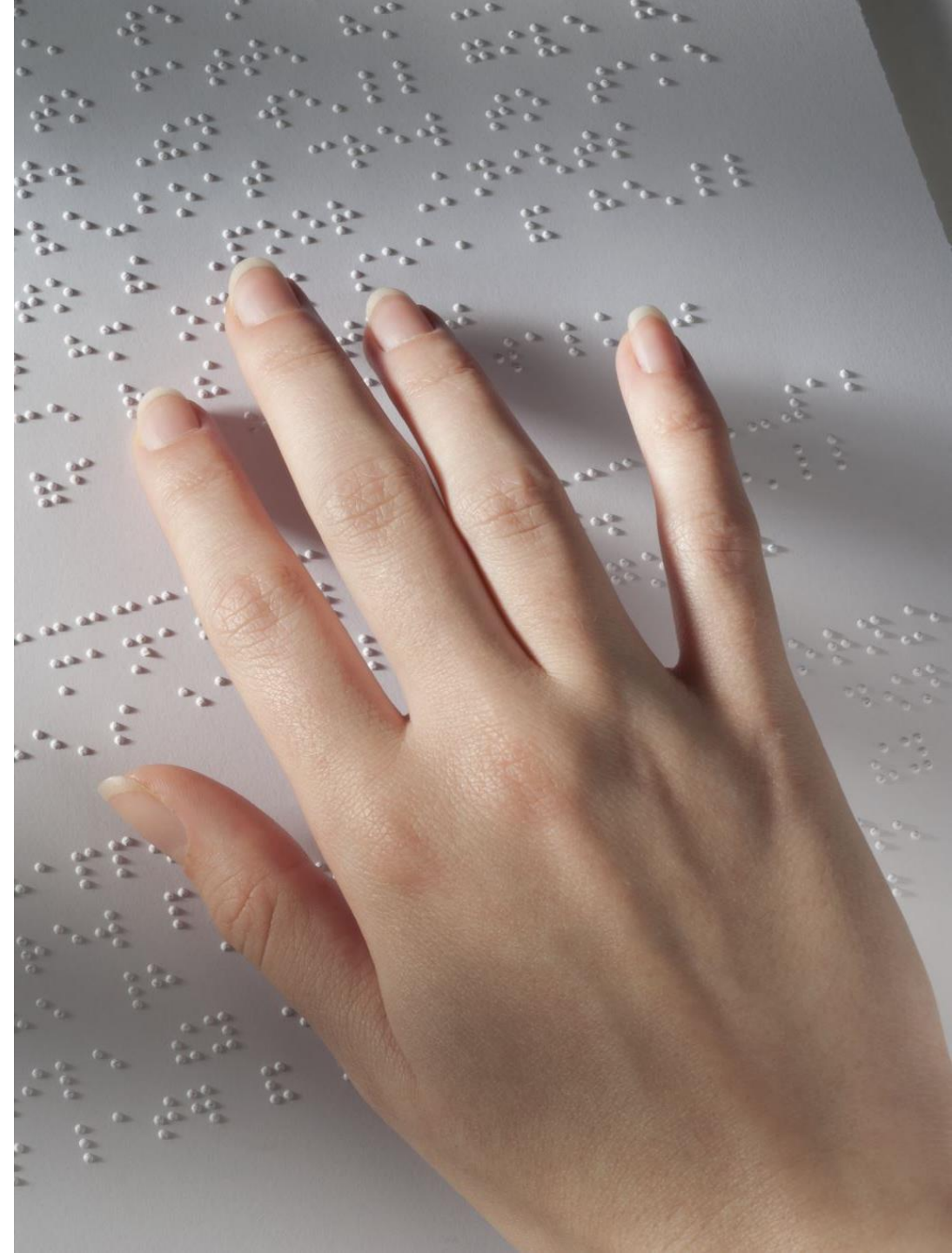
Image descriptions



Free resources



Learning outcomes



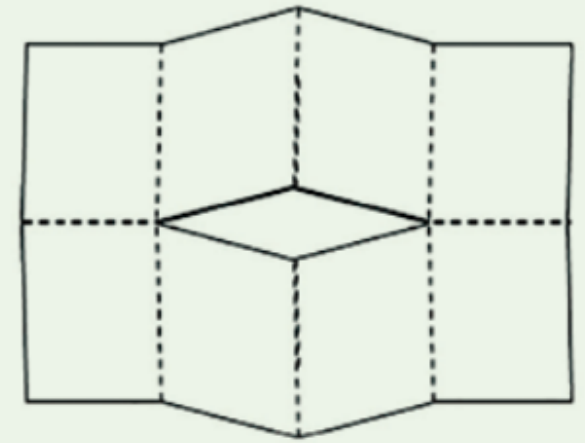


# Now try it for yourself!

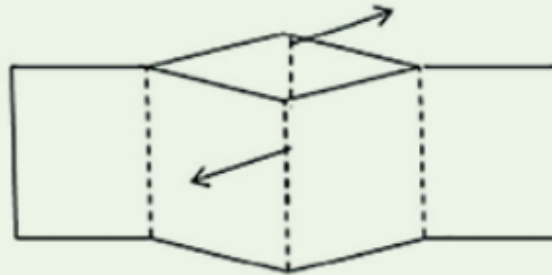
- Pick a topic
- Fold up your paper
- Try out different techniques
- How could you use this for your teaching?



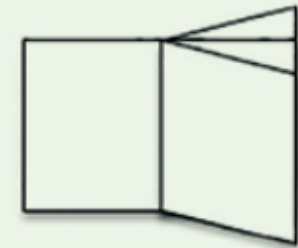
1. Fold any size paper into eighths.



2. Cut along the horizontal center fold line so that the paper appears as shown. (This is most easily accomplished by folding the paper along the center vertical fold, cutting the horizontal fold to the next vertical fold.)



3. Fold paper in half along the horizontal line. Open the cut sections so as to push the vertical center folds away from each other and to push the far right and far left sections together.



4. Pinch or rub the folds to make them sharp and to allow the booklet to lie flat.

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# Images

Colorado College Zine Collection, 2005, CC BY 2.0, cropped,  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tuttlibrary/70948329>

Eyink, 2012, CC BY 2.0, cropped,  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SF\\_punk\\_zines\\_at\\_Prelinger\\_Library.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SF_punk_zines_at_Prelinger_Library.jpg)

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# Further reading

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